

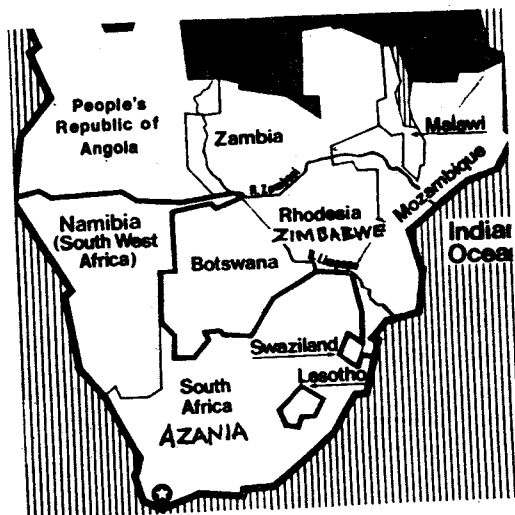


Guns For Hire

historical reprint

**How the C.I.A. & U.S. Army
Recruit Mercenaries
for White Rhodesia**

I. INTRODUCTION



In Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) 270,000 white settlers, mostly immigrated since World War II, control the government and economy, ruling over the seven million Black Africans. The Zimbabweans cannot vote; they have been forced off the bulk of the arable land; and they have no democratic rights whatsoever. *All* labor performed in Zimbabwe is Black labor, and it is intensely exploited, often at less than subsistence wages.

Zimbabweans have been fighting European invaders since the early 17th century. Since the 1890's they have been directly ruled by Europeans, at first in the form of a private British corporation, the British South Africa Company. Since 1923 direct political rule has been in the hands of the white settlers, currently led by Ian Smith and his fascist Rhodesian Front Party. It is important to note that the white settlers were originally given this direct local power as a "self-governing colony" of the British Government, thereby creating a sort of "master-caretaker" relationship.

During these past 80-odd years, western imperialism (the multinational corporations of the United States, Britain, and South Africa) has extracted huge profits from the exploited and oppressed Zimbabwean population (via the subsidiaries of the Anglo-American, LonRho, AMAX, Union Carbide, Mobil, ITT and other corporations). They fully intend to continue doing so as long as they can. The white settler minority has been rewarded for their violent subjugation of the Zimbabwean people with perhaps the highest national standard of living in the world. Sir Roy Welensky, the former Prime Minister of the Central African Federation, which included what is now Rhodesia, once said:

This man Smith has an appeal: It's the appeal of an easy life. For \$6,000 a year you can have five servants, a swimming pool and the lot.

Beginning during the early 1960's, however, the Zimbabwean nationalist forces, under the leadership of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), evolved the strategy of *guerrilla war* to liberate their people and land. It is proving to be very successful. There are twenty thousand guerrillas in base camps in Tanzania and Mozambique, over 3,000 in Zimbabwe itself, and this number is continually rising. In a meeting between Stephen Solarz, a U.S. Congressman, and the ZANU guerrilla leaders, they were reported to:

... reject the possibility of enlisting the assistance of Cuban or other foreign troops, declaring that if we cannot liberate ourselves, we do not deserve to be liberated.¹

Despite western propaganda to the effect that the U.S. and Britain only wish to avoid "bloodshed" in Rhodesia (don't forget that Zimbabweans have been bleeding for almost a century), their real fear is that the liberation struggle will win. With this victory in sight, it is not surprising that the counterattack by the Smith regime has become more vicious and brutal. More than 250,000 rural Zimbabweans have been forced into concentration camps, terrorist raids have been conducted against Zimbabwean refugees in Mozambique, dusk-to-dawn shoot-on-sight curfews have been instituted and enforced in the border areas, and escalating counterinsurgency attacks have been launched against the military arm of the liberation struggle, the Zimbabwe Peoples Army (ZIPA).

It is crucial for Westerners to understand that the Smith regime has not stood alone in this barbaric campaign. This pamphlet documents a critically important element in U.S. imperialism's support for the Smith regime: white mercenary reinforcements for the fascist Rhodesian "security" forces.

This flow of U.S. mercenaries to prop up white Rhodesia is an important — though secret — part of U.S. imperialism's strategy for Africa. The U.S. has massive investments in Southern Africa. Zimbabwe alone supplies the bulk of the high-grade chrome ore used in the U.S. for jet engines and other advanced technological items. Coal, copper, and other minerals are ripped out of Zimbabwe for U.S. industry. Mobil Oil, Texaco, Hertz Rent-A-Cars, Holiday Inns and many other U.S. corporations operate illegally in Rhodesia through foreign subsidiaries.

More important still is South Africa, the fortress of U.S. interests in Africa, where \$1.5 billion is invested by GM, IBM, Ford, and other giant multi-national corporations. The liberation of Zimbabwe would for the first time penetrate the

buffer zone of satellite countries protecting the borders of South Africa. South African guerrilla fighters, who are already training by the thousands in camps in Tanzania and Zambia, would have direct access to re-enter their land and accelerate the liberation struggle.

Knowing that the stakes are high, U.S. imperialism has worked to strengthen the white supremacist outposts in Africa, although at times this had to be done covertly. In 1970 the Nixon White House approved Henry Kissinger's "Operation Tarbaby" strategy. Based on Option 2 of the secret National Security Study Memorandum No. 39, this strategy essentially called for covert military assistance, including direct "exchanges" so that South African troops could be trained in the U.S. in specialized tactics and weapons. This would be done while the U.S. tried to convince Africans that it was on their side (to quote from NSSM No. 39):

We would maintain public opposition to racial oppression but relax political isolation and economic restrictions . . . without openly taking a



Zimbabwean women being searched in concentration camp.

position undermining the United Kingdom and the U.N. on Rhodesia, we would be more flexible in our attitude toward the Smith regime . . . at the same time we would take diplomatic steps to convince the Black states of the area that their current liberation and majority-rule aspirations in the South are not attainable by violence and that their only hope for a peaceful and prosperous future lies in closer relations with the white-dominated states . . .

South African counter-insurgency troops bound for Zimbabwe were trained by U.S. Vietnam veterans at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia. Small arms ("sporting goods"), tear gas ("police equipment"), aircraft parts, trucks and many other items are being supplied to South Africa — and through them to the Smith regime in Rhodesia. The Smith forces use Belgium FN N.A.T.O. automatic rifles, light Lear jet transport and reconnaissance planes from the U.S., chemical defoliants from the Geigy Corporation in Switzerland, "UZI" submachine-guns from Israel, Alouette military helicopters from France, and so on. When the U.S. declared a trade embargo on Cuba, the Cuban people were unable to obtain even spare parts for U.S.-made medical equipment, but the U.S. response to the U.N. embargo against the Smith regime (an embargo that has full legal standing in the U.S. according to *U.S. laws and regulations*) was one of evasion. As we can see from the then-secret NSSM No. 39, this was done in cold blood.

But the explosive developments in Africa have blown this strategy to pieces. In 1974 the protracted peoples war waged by the patriots of Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau led to upheaval within Portuguese society itself, as the Portuguese Army simply ceased fighting and agreed to turn over power in those former colonies to the liberation movements. In Zimbabwe the guerrilla war, led by ZANU, was nearing maturity and was clearly moving closer to victory every month.

While the covert economic and military aid to the Smith regime and the Vorster government in South Africa went on, even Washington had to admit that the tide of African liberation could not be held back without new forces. Naked U.S. military invasion, a la the Dominican Republic and Indo-China, is too risky. As U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young recently admitted, a heavily-Black U.S. Army could not be trusted to fight for the white regimes in Southern Africa. It might even, he mused, spark "civil war" in the U.S. itself.

U.S. imperialism's answer is another Angola — but it hopes more successful. Under the Geneva Plan worked out with Britain, \$2 billion in massive bribes would convince both the Smith regime and pro-Western Black "moderates" in Zimbabwe to get together. A neo-colonial "majority rule" government would be formed, led

by Smith and selected African puppets, which would "integrate" Zimbabwe — leaving the economy in white hands, of course. All this would be *window-dressing to justify a new Western military invasion* to wipe out the liberation movement and garrison Zimbabwe. Just as in the Congo in 1960, Britain and the U.S. are planning an "international peace-keeping force" to carry out this repression. The *New York Times* reported on November 25, 1976 that the Rhodesians were constructing three major new airports under heavy security, to prepare for a hoped-for airlift of massive Western aid.

It is by no means certain this new "detente in Southern Africa" strategy will even become real enough to be truly tested. So far, despite a patented Kissinger "shuffle," repeated trips by lesser diplomats and even a stellar Geneva Conference, the U.S. has been unable to put together a new Coalition government that is both acceptable to the white settlers and credible to Africans. But as U.S. imperialism tries to bribe, threaten and cajole to protect its interests, it desperately needs time for its maneuvers. As the relentless pressure of ZANU's guerrilla war starts to crack white Rhodesia, the only way to buy time is to strengthen the white fascist military. *This is why the CIA is covertly promoting and organizing U.S. mercenary reinforcements for the Smith regime.*

The U.S. media has clearly pictured U.S. mercenaries in Africa in an unfavorable light, but only as footloose, maladjusted veterans acting from personal motives. While this may be true of many mercenaries individually, it is not true of the organized recruiting of mercenaries. Masses of soldiers do not just happen to move from one continent to another. We will prove: that these mercenaries are vitally needed and are employed by the Smith regime; that there exists a worldwide mercenary recruiting network to supply these mercenaries to the Rhodesian forces; and that this network operates right here in the United States. Further, we will document that mercenaries, these front-line troops for U.S. imperialism, were recruited and organized directly by agencies of the U.S. government: the U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence Agency.

II. THE RHODESIAN ARMY: A MERCENARY ARMY

While the Zimbabwean liberation forces are composed entirely of native Zimbabweans, the Rhodesian security forces are small and heavily dependent on foreign mercenaries. The historical consistency of this should be noted here: the founder of "Rhodesia," Cecil Rhodes himself, utilized a force of 500 white mercenaries to

"clear the way" during his original invasion of Zimbabwe. There are about 7,000 troops in the Rhodesian Army and Air Force, including something less than 2,000 in two all-white "elite" units: the Rhodesian Light Infantry and the Special Air Services. There are also two battalions of the Rhodesian African Rifles, predominantly Black puppet units.

In addition, there are about 8,000 troops in the British South African Police (BSAP), a paramilitary force that is two thirds Black. The BSAP is the direct descendent of the British South African Company Police (the BSACP was Cecil Rhodes' private military in the old colonial days). The BSAP, along with all other Rhodesian military forces, is run by whites; there are almost no black officers.¹ Black recruits, such as they are, are driven by economic necessity to join the racist forces; only whites are subject to conscription (some recent reports suggest that Blacks may be drafted into non-combat positions).

The intensified guerrilla war now being waged primarily along the 400-mile Mozambican front led in turn to a call-up of white reservists last year (out of a potential pool of only 30,000 military-age white male Rhodesian reservists). Since the Rhodesian economy employs only whites to perform all administrative and managerial duties (actual labor is performed only by Blacks), this call-up caused great dislocations and confusion among businesses, especially the smaller ones. "It's a bloody shambles," complained one Rhodesian manager.²

But recruiting into the guerrilla army continues apace, and the outlook is for an increasingly intensified guerrilla war along a widening front, which would necessitate further call-ups and therefore further disruptions in the economy. In the absence of overt military reinforcements from any other state, Rhodesia long ago decided to recruit white mercenaries from foreign lands. They particularly need those with counter-insurgency expertise: "If you were a Vietnam veteran, we'd love you," a visitor to the Rhodesian Information Office in Washington, D.C., was told.³

The evidence indicates that Rhodesia is quite successful in its recruiting drive. The *Los Angeles Times* in December, 1976 reported that there were 2,000 mercenaries in the Rhodesian Army; Botswana Radio reported in December 1976 the story of one mercenary deserter who stated that the white forces in the Rhodesian Army were 30% mercenary. ZANU sources estimate as high as 50%.

The contribution of U.S. mercenaries to this total is significant. The *Washington Post* on December 9, 1976 reported that there were 400 U.S. mercenaries in the Rhodesian Army (since this was ZANU's estimate in early 1975, the number now is definitely much higher). The South African pro-government newspaper *Die Vaderland* reported on April 27, 1976 that 80 U.S. mercenaries had just arrived



to lead the settler defense in the area of the single Rhodesian town of Nuenetsi.

Who are these mercenaries? Many of them are veterans of defeated colonial armies. In addition to the U.S. Vietnam veterans referred to above, there are Portuguese veterans of that country's recently defeated African colonial forces. In addition, there are many West Germans, veterans of the French Foreign Legion's campaigns in Algeria and Vietnam, Swedes, New Zealanders, Greeks, Canadians and Australians. There are so many German and Portuguese mercenaries fighting for Rhodesia that some ZANU guerrillas have learned these languages to listen in on enemy radio communications in the field.

Some have extensive counter-insurgency experience. The *Chicago Daily News* of December 28, 1976 reported the case of Major Mike Williams, former Green Beret, whose career spans World War II, Korea, the Congo in the early 1960's, Vietnam, and now Rhodesia, with clandestine shuttles helping anti-communist Cubans return to the U.S. mainland sandwiched in between. Williams was also a former member of the 10th U.S. Special Forces Group, and according to the article, "A former instructor in a jungle warfare school, . . . an expert in guerrilla strategy."

Another mercenary, a Corp. Matthew Lamb, a Canadian, joined the Rhodesian Army after his release from a mental institution. He had spent six years there after being judged "criminally insane" for stepping from behind a tree and gunning down two people waiting for a bus in Toronto. Killed in action in Rhodesia, he was given a funeral with full military honors by the Smith regime. In the words of Major Nich Lamprecht, Chief Recruiting Officer for the Rhodesian Army, "*Many (applicants) are obviously nuts.*"

In general, the mercenaries are a stew of anti-Communist fanatics, with professional counter-insurgency experts mixed in with the emotionally disturbed. The majority of them are white racists who fondly remember their past days in colonial wars, and who, in the words of a University of Rhodesia official: "*. . . find adjustments to civilian life difficult . . .*"

III. THE RHODESIAN DENIAL

Incredibly, the Rhodesian government denies that there are any mercenaries in the Rhodesian Army. Again according to Major Nich Lamprecht, Chief Recruiting Officer:

*I would challenge you or anyone else to produce a single mercenary in the Rhodesian Army. Even one.*¹

There are two flimsy arguments advanced to support this contention. It is claimed that they are "immigrants" and/or they receive the same rates of pay as white Rhodesian citizens of the same rank.

As far as the first argument is concerned, Lamprecht himself has admitted that mercenary recruits do *not* apply for Rhodesian citizenship, merely a resident permit.² And it would be hard to classify as "immigrants" these mercenaries who are constantly complaining that Rhodesian officials seized their passports.^{3, 4} It turns out that their passports were stolen to discourage desertion from the soon-to-be defeated Rhodesian Army.

As far as the pay rate argument is concerned, the *Chicago Sun Times*, March 20, 1977, pictures a monthly pay scale ranging from \$600 (Private) to \$900 (Captain). These pay figures have been widely used in the U.S. media. But it appears that the sources for this article were "Rhodesian officials."


If we look to the *Baltimore Sun* of May 20, 1976, we find that Rhodesian recruiters in Iran were offering monthly salaries ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000. The sources for this information were the potential recruits themselves. Travel expenses to Rhodesia are also reimbursed upon arrival. Anyway, as Jeff Cooper of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, a mercenary recruiting propaganda vehicle here in the U.S., loftily stated to his readers/potential mercenary recruits:

*The mercenary, paradoxically, must have reasons much better than money to motivate him.*⁵

Like murdering Blacks to defend white supremacy and imperialism.

Once we cut through these subterfuges, the only argument left is the purely semantic one that these mercenaries are really "foreign soldiers." And this is what the *New York Times*, an effective apologizer for white rule in Southern Africa, called these mercenaries in its article, "Rhodesians Are Using Foreign Soldiers."⁶

But we have already seen that these "foreign soldiers" aren't "immigrants" and that they work for very good money. Thus, despite this string of lies and verbal gymnastics, it is crystal clear, and documented from the public record, that these "foreign soldiers," these mercenaries, are — *mercenaries*.



"There is no difference between an American joining the Rhodesian Army than a Rhodesian joining the U.S. Army."

Major Lamprecht, Recruiting Officer for the Rhodesian Army, in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

IV. THE INTERNATIONAL MERCENARY RECRUITING NETWORK

The Rhodesian Government has reportedly begun an international recruiting drive for foreigners to join the Rhodesian Army to fight black nationalist guerrillas.

New York Times, July 25, 1976

Numerous accounts in the western press have documented the operation of this international network of mercenary recruiting. An article in the *New York Times* refers to the recruitment of German mercenaries by "... a West German, one Edgar A. D. Thelen," former French Foreign Legionnaire, former advisor to the U.S. Special Forces in Vietnam, and former anti-guerrilla warfare instructor as a Captain in the Rhodesian military.¹ His collaborator in this operation was identified in the article as "... a Rhodesian officer identified only as Major Lamprecht..." Readers will recall that Major Lamprecht is the Chief Recruiting Officer for the Rhodesian Army, who denied that the Rhodesian Army employs mercenaries. Commenting on this other charge concerning the recruiting network, all Major Lamprecht could reply with was: "hogwash." Hogwash, indeed.

According to *Agence France Presse*, July 7, 1976, the Lisbon newspaper *a Capital*, on that date, reported that mercenary recruiting for Rhodesia was taking place among former Portuguese colonial soldiers in Lisbon. The *Baltimore Sun* of May 20, 1976 contained the following article concerning recruitment of mercenaries in Iran for Rhodesia. It should be read in full, since it touches on a variety of points related to the whole mercenary issue.

Rhodesia hires ex-GI's, Britons as mercenaries

By MICHAEL PARKS
Sun Staff Correspondent

Teheran, Iran — Former American and British soldiers helping train the Iranian armed forces are being actively recruited here to fight as mercenaries in Rhodesia.

More than 30 pilots, paratroopers, tank commanders, mechanics and other skilled ex-soldiers have been enlisted by Rhodesian recruiters near Iranian military centers, according to colleagues who are still there.

The recruiters, working in

hotels, bars and clubs at Isfahan, Shiraz and Ahwaz, are offering salaries of \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, according to those who have been approached.

One recruiter, who approached a group of Americans and British in Isfahan over the weekend, offered two former paratroopers in the group \$2,000 a month plus a bonus on signing two-year contracts to go to Rhodesia as commandos.

A 22-year veteran of the British Army accepted immediate-

ly. An American, who spent five years in Vietnam, said he would consider the proposal for slightly more money when his contract to train Iranian soldiers expires next month.

The Rhodesian agent, who first identified himself as a British businessman, then asked this reporter whether he was interested in "intelligence work in southern Africa."

Civilian American and British advisers to the Iranian armed forces said that such offers are increasing. Most can name 5 to 10 colleagues who have gone to Rhodesia in the last four to six months.

The total number recruited in Iran, which has more than 4,000 American and British civilians advising and training the

Iranian armed forces, is difficult to estimate, but several sources familiar with the recruiting effort put the number at a minimum of 30 and perhaps as many as 80.

Iranian authorities presumably are aware of the Rhodesian agents' activities through their widespread domestic security system, but no public action has been taken to halt the recruiting.

American officials in Teheran expressed surprise at the Rhodesian recruiting activities and said they would investigate. A United States Embassy official noted that such recruitment of Americans as mercenaries for Rhodesia runs counter to the recently strengthened U.S. opposition to the white regime in Salisbury.

The Rhodesian agents here apparently are recruiting only experienced, highly skilled personnel—fighter-bomber pilots, helicopter pilots, aircraft mechanics, tank unit commanders, counterinsurgency specialists—in what they have described to some prospects as a major expansion of the Rhodesian armed forces.

Although recruiters are said to have approached some members of the large American and British military missions advising the Iranian armed forces, all the recruits are believed to have come from civilians under contract to Iran's major arms suppliers to train Iranians to use their new arsenal of helicopters, tanks, jet fighters and bombers.

The pay offered by recruiters here is substantially above

that promised less-skilled infantrymen now being recruited in Britain and other European countries and matches the instructors' high pay in Iran.

The Rhodesian recruiters are reported to play on the frustration of many of the American instructors, who frequently quit before the end of their contracts because of difficult living conditions here and because of the hard task of building a modern army overnight.

They also have appealed in talking with some prospects to the basic conservatism of many of the instructors, telling them that "Rhodesia's cause" is that of the free world against communism. Sometimes the sales pitch is blatantly racist, according to those who have talked with the Rhodesian agents.

"Apparently Rhodesia is engaged in a substantial expansion of its Army and needs trained, experienced, battle-hardened soldiers," said a former U.S. Army helicopter pilot, now an instructor at Isfahan with Bell Helicopter International.

"Right here, they have probably the biggest pool of such men who would be interested in this sort of mercenary work.

"I told them no when they asked me. I did five years in Vietnam, and that is enough shooting for me. But there are a lot of guys here itching to get back into action, frustrated with trying to teach the Iranians . . . I think they probably get three or four a week out here and the other places."

The recruiting apparently

started last autumn, although it is unclear whether in Iran or elsewhere, after Bell Helicopter fired some of its 180 instructor pilots following a strike over work and living conditions.

"We know at least a dozen of those guys wound up in Rhodesia," a pilot still at Isfahan said. "Apparently Rhodesian recruiters were waiting for them as they stepped off the plane from Teheran."

But some of these early recruits have written back to friends in Iran that many of the promises made by the Rhodesian agents have not been honored.

Their pay has been reduced by high room-and-board charges at Rhodesian military bases; a portion of it is being "banked" for them and the bonuses they were promised have been postponed until completion of their contract, according to letters some have sent back.

In addition, the Rhodesian authorities have confiscated their passports in many cases, officially so they will not be lost or stolen but actually to ensure they stay through the length of the two- and three-year contracts, the newly recruited mercenaries have written.

The consensus among those former American soldiers who have talked with the recruiters and read their colleagues' letters is that the Rhodesians are forming a number of predominantly mercenary units.

This Iranian situation is obviously ideal for the Rhodesian recruiters, since they are dealing with a high concentration of "civilians" doing *military* work; thus the men are accessible to immediate recruitment, unlike soldiers under two- to five-year enlistment.

It is also important to point out that Iran is probably the most totalitarian

state in the world, and that this kind of open military activity would be impossible without both the knowledge and approval of the Shah of Iran. The Shah, in turn, would not give his "go-ahead" for this operation without the approval of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). As is now openly admitted, the CIA installed the Shah in power in 1954, and Richard Helms, former director of the CIA, was the U.S. Ambassador to Iran when this Rhodesian recruiting activity was started.

Thus the mercenary recruiting network does exist, and on an international scale; we can already discern the hand of U.S. policy in the operation of this recruiting network overseas. With this background, we turn now to the story of mercenaries and mercenary recruitment in the United States itself.

V. MERCENARIES EXPOSED



The investigation really began in Africa. It was not the "American Free Press" (or even Robert Redford) who first turned the spotlight on U.S. mercenary involvement with Rhodesia. In June, 1975, Tapson A. Mawere, Chief Representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) in North America, called a press

conference in New York City. Acting at the urgent request of the ZANU leadership, Mawere sketched out for the press ZANU's intelligence reports that as many as 400 U.S. mercenaries were then fighting for the Smith forces in Rhodesia. He called for an official investigation into this violation of U.S. laws, and demanded that Americans stop sending these mercenaries to Zimbabwe.

As the exposures of U.S. mercenaries in Rhodesia, following the lead of ZANU, have proliferated in a variety of media forums, so have the apologies, the back-trackings, and the outright lies of U.S. government spokesmen and others, ever eager to cover up U.S. support for the Smith regime. For example, the *New York Times* in its followup on the Mawere press conference claimed that Mawere had actually said that there were only 60 U.S. mercenaries in Rhodesia. This newspaper then dutifully printed a quote from a U.S. State Department spokesman who said he didn't know of any U.S. mercenaries in Rhodesia.¹ Almost two years later, as of this writing, the *New York Times* is using 400 as the number of U.S. mercenaries in Rhodesia today; of course the real number is much higher now.

Four months after the ZANU press conference, U.S. Congressman Donald Fraser, representing the U.S. before the U.N., stated, *"If there is any specific evidence that Americans are serving . . . under Ian Smith, my government wishes to be made aware of it in detail so that appropriate legal action may be considered under our laws."*²

The full "coverup" story will be presented in later sections of this pamphlet, but there is another story, not yet made public, which together with the original ZANU expose provided the real impetus for our investigation of U.S. mercenaries and U.S. mercenary recruitment for Rhodesia.

Early one afternoon in August, 1976, a young Jesuit priest and a friend were sitting on a park bench in Chicago. They had gone into the park for an after-lunch stroll and were watching children play as they casually continued their lunchtime conversation. Suddenly, they noticed a paunchy, middle-aged white man walk by — wearing a white T-shirt advertising for Rhodesian mercenaries! The T-shirt pictured a black U.S. "Huey" combat helicopter discharging troops, with the legend: "RHODESIA is ready when You are!" Recovering from their momentary shock, the two shouted to the man to come over. There ensued a conversation where the man (a crew-cut former Master Sgt. in the "Green Berets") showed his military identification card, said that his T-shirt could be gotten "Down at 12th Special Forces," and tried to interest the two in becoming mercenaries in Rhodesia.

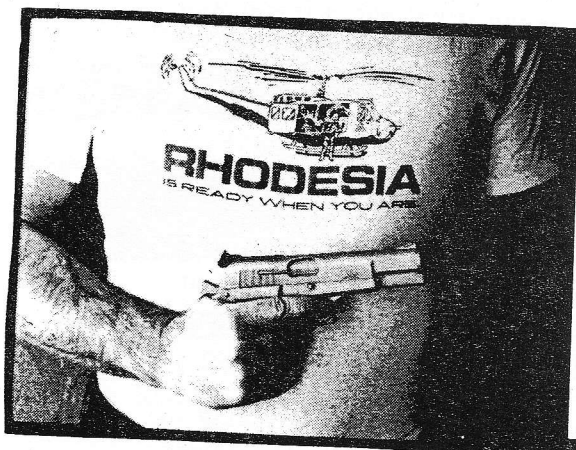
Despite his repeated warnings that the Government didn't have anything to do with mercenary recruitment, it was obvious that personnel in the U.S. Army

Reserves Unit were heavily involved. The two witnesses turned over a statement on this incident to the ZANU Support Committee (*Statement in Appendix A*).

Almost immediately, an investigator was sent to the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Headquarters, which was found to be in Arlington Heights, Illinois, some thirty miles outside of Chicago. The investigator, posing as someone sympathetic to white mercenaries, inquired about obtaining one of the mercenary T-shirts. The investigator was told by the Officer of the Day that the 12th Special Forces Group was "*the only place*" that the T-shirt could be purchased, since it was produced by men in the unit. The Officer of the Day also urged the investigator to help bring interested friends to the unit HQ to discuss becoming mercenaries for Rhodesia. The officer explained that unfortunately no T-shirts were available then, since they had all been sold out. He then gave the investigator his name and wrote down the unit's phone number on a U.S. Government memo pad and gave it to the investigator for future use. (*See Memo in Appendix B.*)

In short, the U.S. Army was recruiting mercenaries for Rhodesia. Although we had long suspected that this kind of thing was going on, this incident was startling news indeed. It also *forced* us to take a radically different approach with respect to the analysis of the mercenary issue.

The reason is related to the fact that the United States government and its apologizers (e.g., the *New York Times*, *TIME* magazine) would like the American public and the Black African nations to believe that the U.S. government is for "majority rule" in Rhodesia, to be achieved, of course, by "peaceful" means. All sweetness and light. In this context, mercenary recruitment in the U.S. is an obvious embarrassment, but is that all? If it's only an embarrassment, if mercenary recruit-



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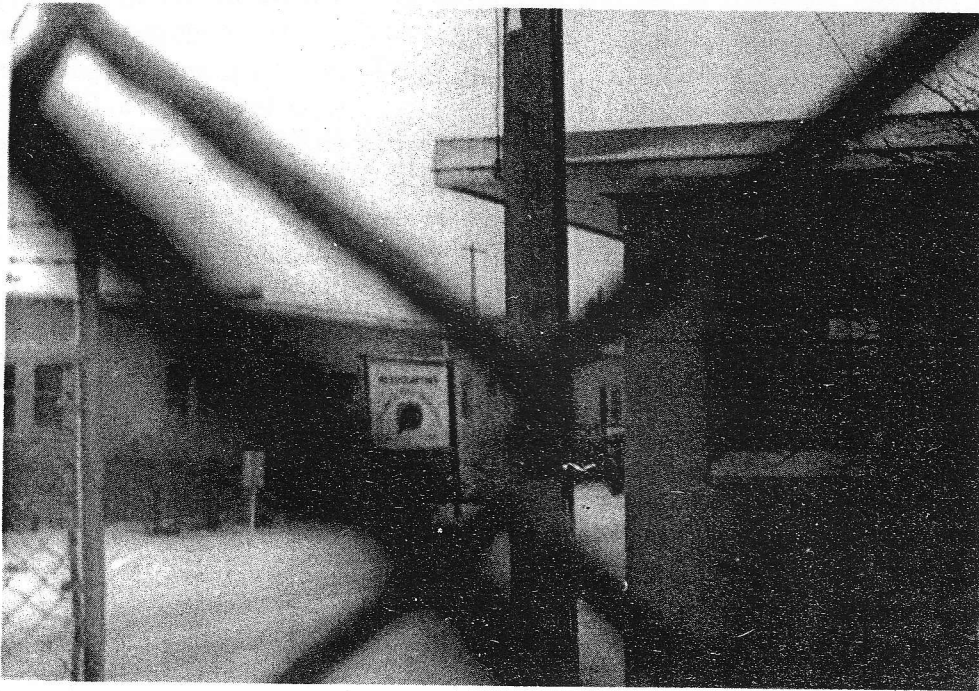
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ment can all be blamed on a renegade collection of "right-wing crazies" running loose in the country, then the U.S. government *need only apologize* to its critics for it.

One can imagine our diplomats saying, "Yes, we know this awful thing is going on, but we have a free and democratic society, and we cannot totally repress these right-wing groups, even though we try to keep an eye on them. But don't worry, we're still on your side; we're still for majority rule," etc., etc.

And on the other side of the argument, if critics of U.S. imperialism merely point out the fact that mercenary recruiting is going on, their criticism may end up fatally flawed. To be sure, they won't buy the argument that these mercenaries are really "foreign soldiers," but they may stop short, as Akbarali M. Thobhani did in *Africa Today*, with the plea that ". . . the United States . . . put an end to misdeeds and mischief by American mercenaries in Africa . . ."³ In the context of Rhodesia, it is shortsighted to naively assume (with Thobhani) that mercenary support for the Smith regime is *not* in the interest of the United States, and that therefore Washington could see it in their interest to stop it.

Clearly, the opposite argument is the one that needs investigation. Namely, assuming that the U.S. is continuing to support the Smith regime in critical areas, how is the U.S. providing mercenary reinforcements to Rhodesia?

After the "T-shirt incident," we no longer had to speculate. It was no longer any question of assumptions. We knew the U.S. government was recruiting mercenaries for Rhodesia. The task which remained was one of "filling in the gaps" in order to present the full and complete picture of U.S. mercenary activity. The following three sections of this pamphlet tell the whole story: details of the mercenary recruiting apparatus in the U.S., the "coverup" by the Government and the mass of interconnections linking the mercenary recruiters to each other through the U.S. Army's 12th Special Forces Group, and linking these recruiters to the Central Intelligence Agency.

VI. MERCENARY RECRUITMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Mercenary recruiting for Rhodesia has been going on for almost five years in the United States. Most of it can be initially traced to one of two sources: the Rhodesian Information Office (RIO) in Washington, D.C., and a certain Robert K. Brown. The RIO story is fairly straightforward and will be dealt with first.

The *Christian Science Monitor*, November 18, 1975, reported the case of Frank Sweeney, an American who in 1972 was referred by the RIO to Major Nich Lamprecht and was thus recruited into the Rhodesian Light Infantry. On his return to the U.S., Sweeney showed his discharge papers from the Rhodesian Light Infantry to immigration officials, who then waved him on, no questions asked. Sweeney, at the express urging of Major Lamprecht, also placed ads in various American publications on his return; the following was his ad in the October 15, 1975 issue of *Shotgun News*:

The Rhodesian Army offers excitement and adventure. I know. I've been there. Young Americans of European ancestry write me for free details pertaining to recruiting.

Frank Abbott Sweeney
72 Creston Avenue
Tenafly, New Jersey, 07670

According to Mr. Sweeney, he received several hundred replies to this ad and a similar one in *Gun Week*. It should be noted here that the RIO's action in recruiting Mr. Sweeney was absolutely illegal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (22 U.S.C. Sec. 611, *et seq.*). (Officially, the RIO is a registered foreign agent.) It should also be noted, for the record, that according to Mr. Sweeney himself, his unit participated in an attack on the territory of Mozambique, a country the United States formally recognizes and is formally at peace with. The U.S. claims not to recognize Rhodesia — formally, that is.

Both the article in the *Monitor* and an article in *Africa Report*, November-December, 1975, relate the experiences of visitors to the RIO in Washington. There they were given a talk on Americans serving in Rhodesia; Major Lamprecht's name, address, and phone number; and recruiting brochures for the Rhodesian Army. All this is illegal activity under U.S. laws — if they were ever enforced against the agents of the Smith regime.

We now turn to the story of Mr. Robert K. Brown, *Lieutenant Colonel* Robert K. Brown, that is, an officer of the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne), U.S. Army Reserve. Brown's career dates back to the late 1950's at the University of Colorado, where as a student he started out as an anti-Batista organizer. He switched to the anti-Castro side after Castro "went Communist," and he continued to work with Cuban "gusano" exile groups during the 1960's (recall here our previous discussion of the career of Major Mike Williams, who also hobnobbed with Cuban exiles). He apparently did time in Vietnam, and as a "civilian" he has operated as a combination U.S. Special Forces officer/free-lance journalist.

Early in 1975, after returning from a visit to Rhodesia, the then-Major Robert K. Brown, as head of a company known as Phoenix Associates, placed ads in various American publications marketing packets of mercenary recruiting information on the Rhodesian armed forces. Brown was exposed at the ZANU press conference in New York in June, 1975, but he was excused by Temple G. Cole, State Department desk officer for Rhodesia, who told the press that Brown was merely providing information, not actually recruiting (this fine line is hard to discern). "Apparently he's been reasonably careful in what he's done so far," said Mr. Cole of Brown.¹

The *Monitor* article refers to unspecified "Government pressure" which induced Brown to drop the Phoenix recruiting packets, but in retrospect it appears certain that Brown was instead given the green light to sharply *expand* his mercenary recruiting activities. Phoenix Associates did drop the packet, but Brown almost simultaneously started another front group, Omega Group Ltd. (totally

owned by Brown and one Don McLean). This company in late 1975 commenced publication of *Soldier of Fortune*, the *Journal of Professional Adventurers*, a glossy quarterly full of helpful information on how to fight for Rhodesia.

Major Brown was then promoted to *Lieutenant Colonel* Brown, on December 14, 1975, apparently as official recognition of his activities. This reward (which went unmentioned in the *New York Times*) is an odd kind of "pressure."

Finally, to top this, Phoenix Associates once again began marketing recruiting brochures for the BSAP, the Special Air Services, and the Rhodesian Army, all for a nominal handling fee of \$1.00! "Pressure" is obviously not the word for what was applied to Major Brown. "Encouragement," "direction," and quite likely "money" much more appropriately describe the moving force behind Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown's expanding and accelerating career.

Soldier of Fortune (SOF) magazine is a whole story in itself. In the very first issue, Lt. Col. Brown himself, supposedly reeling under U.S. government pressure for trying to recruit mercenaries, wrote an article entitled: "How Does an American Become a Mercenary in Africa?" The article deals specifically with Rhodesia, supplying information on BSAP and Rhodesian enlistment requirements, and including the address in Rhodesia of our old friend Major Lamprecht.



U.S. Army LT COL Jeff Cooper, a *Soldier of Fortune* editor, (right) meets with Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith (left).

But this was only the beginning. Glancing over the six issues of *SOF* published to date, it is immediately apparent that *SOF*'s primary focus is on counter-insurgency in Africa, and in Rhodesia specifically. Aside from one small article about the Israeli border police, there is nothing about counter-insurgency in the Middle East, where a lot of it is going on. The only other articles related to this area dealt with alleged PLO "terrorism" in Lebanon, and the mistreatment of "civilian" military instructors in Iran by Bell Helicopter, Inc. Recall that these people were the very ones being recruited by Rhodesia into their mercenary army.

Aside from articles about guns and some tales of adventure, this magazine is about Africa. There are a few articles about Angola. Each issue contains one, and sometimes two, extensive articles about counter-insurgency in Rhodesia. Besides the first article by Brown, their titles are:

"Mythologies of the Terrorist War" (This article was reprinted from *ASSEGAI*, the official magazine of the Rhodesian Army.)

"Jeff Cooper's Rhodesian Update"

"Rhodesia is Ready"

"War in Rhodesia, An Exclusive Interview with Lt. General G. P. Walls, OLM MBE, Commander of the Rhodesian Army"

"Combat in Rhodesia"

"SOF Interview: Major Nich Lamprecht, Rhodesian Army Recruiting Officer"

"SOF Recon: Action in Southern Africa" (This article, written by Brown, related his experiences during a recent tour of the operational areas in Rhodesia.)

With this heavy publicity as the background, the letters to the editor section (entitled "Flak") steps in with the recruiting pitch, thinly disguised as "information":

Sir:

I guess you have received many letters like this one, from people like myself, who are really interested in becoming a professional like yourself, and some from the FBI and CIA, and nuts. I don't know anyone who I can talk to. I have had it with S of F and M.A.C.I. I think they're only interested in the money they want you to send in, and not anything else.

I'm willing to travel anywhere, but the problem is paying the 12 to 13 hundred for the fare, and living expenses. How can someone starting get started, when there are so many old pros around? Where do

you look — not the want ads, that's for sure.

How in hell can you get started? I could lie, but those who know would know that I'm lying. I know weapons, explosives and the bush, and I'm good and willing to take a chance. All I want is a chance. Thanks for taking time to read this, and I would be grateful for any advice.

Thanks

Carl Fredericks
P.O. Box 4021, Station F
Cincinnati, OH 45204

We recommend Rhodesia. Getting

there, of course, is the problem. The Rhodesian Army and BSAP both accept able and willing young men without experience, especially those who indicate an interest in settling in the country. The only other avenue of approach is obtaining the funds to go where the action is and hope you can climb aboard. Perhaps some of our readers can give you some advice.

Therefore, sirs, I would greatly appreciate any information or addresses you could send which would assist me in accomplishing my goal.

J.W.C.
Amarillo, Texas

6 March 1976

Additional information of the nature you desire may be obtained by writing:

Dear Sirs,

I have been watching with interest lately the news concerning Rhodesia, and find myself sympathizing with the government to the point of wanting to actively participate in solving its problems.

I have six years of U.S. Army combat arms experience, to include a stint in Vietnam, and I believe this training might be valuable to the Rhodesian armed forces.

However, before I pack my bags and take off, I would like to gather as much information about Rhodesia and its military as I possibly can. I believe the best way to accomplish this would be to write there directly, but I do not have the address of the correct branch of government to which my inquiries should be directed.

Recruiting Officer
British South Africa Police
General Headquarters
P.O. Box 8007
Causeway
Salisbury, Rhodesia

and
Recruiting Officer
Army Headquarters
P.O. Box 7720
Causeway
Salisbury, Rhodesia

You may expedite your problem by calling the operator in Salisbury and requesting the telephone numbers for the Army or BSAP recruiters. All correspondence should be posted airmail.

As noted previously, Phoenix Associates currently markets Rhodesian recruiting brochures in *SOF* (Phoenix has the same P. O. Box number in Boulder, Colorado, as *SOF*). *SOF* itself markets the official Rhodesian Army recruiting poster for \$3.00, in addition to using this same poster as the back cover of *SOF* magazine. This poster appears elsewhere in this pamphlet.

Actually, "marketing" is too strong a word; in fact, *SOF* provides lots of recruiting information for the price of the magazine alone or at most handling charges. They even went out of their way to expose and discredit a certain Frank Renzi, who tried to sell the information for up to \$20.² *SOF* has a job to do, to recruit mercenaries for Rhodesia, and they aren't going to let a few dollars stand in the way. The dollars come from somewhere else, apparently.

Brown's interview with Major Lamprecht in the Spring, 1977 issue of *SOF* was interesting. Ostensibly printed to "dispel a number of misconceptions concerning service with the Rhodesian forces," the interview simply consisted of Lam-

precht providing all of the little informational details to potential mercenary recruits to help smooth the application process.

Brown provided the forum with his leading questions to Major Lamprecht: "How long does it take to approve an application?" "What if a volunteer does not have sufficient funds to travel to Rhodesia?" "What is the next step?" "What problems do volunteers face when they join the Rhodesian Army?" and so on. Some "interview." "Journalist" Brown could have asked lots of interesting questions, like: How do Rhodesian "soldiers" murder civilian Blacks when they walk down the street at night? Why can't Ian Smith rely on Rhodesian Blacks to man the army, rather than using foreign mercenaries? Isn't it true that morphine is withheld from injured Black Rhodesian soldiers because they're considered not worth the expense? And so on.

This "interview" also contains Lamprecht's ritual denial that there are mercenaries in the Rhodesian Army. This was in response to Brown's indignant query about the fact that "*the terrorists and their supporters have characterized the foreigners that have joined your Army as 'mercenaries.'*" Scandalous! Brown also sternly informs letter writers in this same issue of *SOF* (p. 6): "... *This is no 'merc' job,*" referring to Rhodesia. But the reader will recall that that is exactly what Brown himself called them in his article in the first issue of *SOF*! Brown also wrote an article in *Guns* magazine, December, 1975, about Rhodesia in which he explicitly refers to "European mercenaries" in the Rhodesian Army.³

In other words, Brown and *SOF* changed their official line at the same time that the RIO and the top brass in the Rhodesian Army found it necessary to deny the existence of mercenaries in Rhodesia. But this is not so surprising; from what has been presented here, it is crystal clear that Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown and his *Soldier of Fortune* magazine operate as de facto agents of the Rhodesian government here in the U.S.

To round out our presentation of the mercenary recruiting and propaganda activities of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, we must tell the story of a company known as Paramilitary Marketing, located in Rosemont, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. Paramilitary Marketing apparently is not a very big company, since it advertised the sale of only one small item — the mercenary-recruiting T-shirt that we ran into earlier. Rosemont, Illinois, is a ten-minute drive from Arlington Heights, Illinois, location of the 12th Special Forces Group HQ in the Chicago area, the admitted manufacturer of this mercenary-recruiting T-shirt.

We thus have made a full circle in our inquiry: from the 12th Special Forces



U.S. Army LT COL Robert K. Brown, publisher of Soldier of Fortune, visiting British South Africa Police unit.

Group to Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, to *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, a Rhodesian agency, back to the 12th Special Forces Group. As we have noted previously, there are other links between the 12th Special Forces and Brown and *SOF*, but these will be presented in Section VIII of this pamphlet along with the CIA connections.

In the next section, the U.S. government coverup operation, disguised as an "investigation" of U.S. mercenary activity, will be presented. As in Watergate, the analysis of the coverup tells us almost as much about the criminals as the exposition of the crime itself. Specifically, we will learn that the U.S. State and Justice Departments did everything in their power, including flatly contradicting themselves, in order to facilitate the recruitment of U.S. mercenaries for the Smith regime.

VII. THE INVESTIGATION

Generally speaking, it is illegal under U.S. law to *be* a mercenary and/or to *recruit* mercenaries. Note that there are two separate issues here. First, with respect to the *recruitment* of mercenaries, we have already cited the Foreign Agents Registration Act in our earlier discussion of the Rhodesian Information Office. The *Africa Report* article refers to unnamed "American officials" who said they would not hesitate to close down the RIO if they found evidence that the RIO was recruiting U.S. citizens to become mercenaries.¹ That was in 1975, and the RIO office is still open.

As far as the recruiting activities of Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown are concerned, the following law applies (Title 18 U.S.C. Sec. 959):

Whoever, within the United States . . . retains another . . . to go beyond the jurisdiction of the United States with intent to be enlisted in the service of any foreign prince, state, colony, district, or people as a soldier or as a marine . . . shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than 3 years or both.

Mr. Cole of the State Department, whom we met earlier apologizing for Brown's mercenary recruiting activities, was also quoted as saying that "the whole thing is under investigation by the Justice Department . . ."² He was referring specifically to Phoenix Associates. This was almost two years ago. Since then, the even more blatant activities of Brown described in the preceding section of this pamphlet have taken place.

According to a statement by Robert L. Keuch, U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General, before the Special Subcommittee on International Relations, House of Representatives, this "investigation" is still going on.³ As we have pointed out already, the only apparent effect of this "investigation" has been a virtual explosion of mercenary recruiting activity here in the U.S. and the promotion of the head recruiter from Major to Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

The second issue to be discussed is that of *serving* as a mercenary. Title 18 U.S.C. Sec. 958 prohibits joining a mercenary force *while in the U.S.*; the penalty is a fine and/or jail. But on page 61 of the Spring 1977 issue of *SOF*, Major Lamprecht in his "interview" informs potential mercenary recruits that he actually does his recruiting by correspondence. After the potential recruit sends his curriculum vitae to Rhodesia, Major Lamprecht checks it out and ". . . forwards a formal written offer. It is then up to him to accept or reject it." He's still in the U.S., Mr. Keuch! Presumably, Justice Department sleuths are busy checking out this

latest hot clue. By the time we get the results, we'll have *General* Robert K. Brown recruiting mercenaries for the Rhodesian Army!

There is another law (Title 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1481[a][3]) which applies to this case of *serving* as a mercenary, and which has received somewhat more publicity. Again, according to Mr. Keuch, this law:

... provides that any citizen of the United States who enters the armed forces of a foreign state, without the written authorization of the Secretaries of State and Defense, shall lose his citizenship.

Mr. Cole of the State Department was also aware of this law. He said:

*... Anyone who did go there for this purpose could endanger his United States Citizenship.*⁴

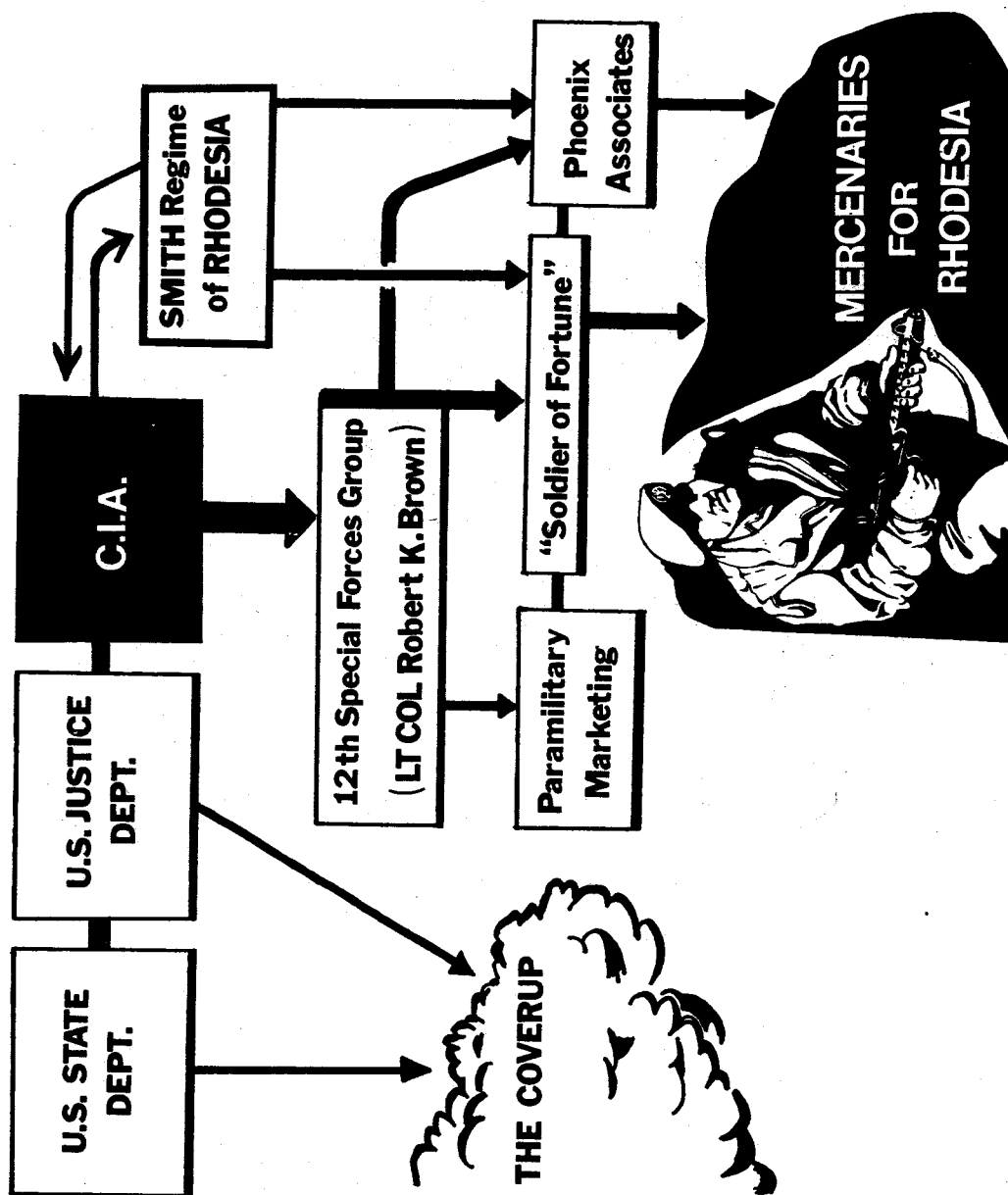
U.S. Congressman Donald Fraser, representing the U.S. Government before the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on October 9, 1975, stated then and there:

*My Government does not approve of participation by any American citizen in the forces of the Ian Smith regime. Our laws provide that any citizen enlisting in the armed forces of another country runs the risk of losing his U.S. Citizenship. In addition he could be subjected to criminal prosecution under existing U.S. laws which provide fines and prison terms for those found guilty.*⁵
(emphasis added)

Finally, *Soldier of Fortune* staff member Jeff Cooper (Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Cooper, that is) in his article "Rhodesian Update" in the Spring 1976 issue of *SOF*, stated, "*For those who contemplate a long stay and full participation in the struggle, we should note that service under a foreign flag . . . forfeits U.S. Citizenship.*"⁶

Well, the issue is evidently clear enough, but the interesting thing about it is that these last three statements date from the latter half of 1975, at a time when the United States Government was finding it convenient to profess ignorance about the existence of U.S. mercenaries in Rhodesia: "*We do not know of anybody who is over there yet,*" said Mr. Cole of the State Department.⁷ ZANU had just told the press that there were 400 U.S. mercenaries "over there." In short, brave promises to prosecute were combined with claims of ignorance of anything deserving prosecution. Very convenient.

The Recruiting NETWORK



But during the next months, Angola was liberated, and, with the Angolan mercenary trial and the conviction and execution of Daniel Gearhart (he was recruited through *SOF*), mercenaries became page one news. Further, the existence of mercenaries in Rhodesia was finally admitted by the regular press; the *New York Times* printed its story "Rhodesians Are Using Foreign Soldiers" on July 25, 1976. One would have expected that with the whole thing now out in the open, hundreds of American citizens serving as mercenaries in Rhodesia would be facing loss of U.S. citizenship, not to mention the jail sentences and fines mentioned previously. One would think that the two-year-long "investigation" by the Justice Department would now come to fruition.

CLASSIFIED

Write to: Ed. Write to: 1300, 3rd St. Evergreen Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, or call collect: (412) 364-6228.

WANTED: EMPLOYMENT AS MERCENARY on Full-Time or Job Contract basis. Preferably in South or Central America, but anywhere in the world, if you pay transportation. Contact Gearhart, Box 1457, Wheaton, MD 20902.

YOUNG GREEK NATIONAL seeks employment as mercenary on full-time or job contract basis. Write SVSV, P.O. Box 500, S. G.P.

Forces, State chest bank draft for Air Mail. Make mail. Make and address Box 240. Can



Daniel Gearhart, the U.S. mercenary tried and executed in Angola, got his start by placing this classified ad in *Soldier of Fortune*.

But note how the *Times* referred to these mercenaries as "foreign soldiers." The reader will recall how, back in Boulder, Colorado, Robert K. Brown was also cleaning up his act, avoiding the use of that disgusting word "mercenary." And Major Lamprecht and the RIO were busy issuing heated denials that these mercenaries were actually mercenaries.

Back in Washington, the Justice Department, still immersed in its "investigation" of the mercenary affair, was busy polishing up its fallback position. But their position could not be the same as that of the *Times*, Brown, and the RIO, namely, that these mercenaries were not really mercenaries. The law doesn't make this profound distinction. Instead, relying on a Supreme Court decision in favor of an American whose citizenship was revoked because he *voted* in an Israeli election, the Justice Department decided to claim that citizenship could not be revoked because of mercenary service in the Rhodesian Army.

Again, quoting Mr. Keuch, "... service as a mercenary does not cause the loss of United States citizenship" — even when the mercenary, fighting in the military of a country we don't recognize, participates in the invasion of a country we do recognize and are at peace with, Mozambique (recall Mr. Sweeney's career). If this doesn't constitute effective renunciation of U.S. citizenship under existing laws, then what does?

The obvious question at this point is that if this really was the U.S. Government's position on the matter, then what the hell have they been "investigating" all this time? We do not wish to further belabor the reader with endless speculations concerning what the investigators who don't investigate are trying to investigate, and what the prosecutors who don't prosecute are trying to prosecute, except to make this point: these evasions are deliberate. We do not base our case on the off-the-cuff, one-time statements of some low-level government employee. What we are clearly dealing with here is a *pattern* of evasion which shifts with changes in the political and propaganda currents so as always to protect and nurture the operation of mercenary recruitment here in the United States.

But we know that the U.S. Departments of State and Justice had good reason to play the role of helpful bystander in the U.S. mercenary recruitment operation for Rhodesia. And that reason was simple: the United States Government *itself* recruits mercenaries for Rhodesia.

Further, in the next section of this pamphlet, our exposition of the links between the U.S. Army Special Forces and Robert Brown, between Robert Brown and the CIA, between the CIA and *Soldier of Fortune*, and between *Soldier of Fortune* and the Special Forces, will prove that these various elements are at once interconnected and combined into a coherent, logical whole, of whose purpose there can be no doubt: recruit U.S. mercenaries for the Rhodesian armed forces.

VIII. THE CIA AND U.S. MERCENARIES

Special Forces Reserve and National Guard Units offer unique opportunities for adventure. *Soldier of Fortune*, Spring, 1976, p. 32

The reader will recall that Robert K. Brown, editor-publisher of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, is simultaneously a Lieutenant Colonel in the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne), U.S. Army Reserve. There are twenty-one individuals on the editorial staff of *SOF* magazine. Of these twenty-one, *six* are clearly identified as holding U.S. military rank. They are:

Lt. Col. Alex McColl, editor, Military Affairs
Major G. C. Nonte, associate editor, Guns
Lt. Colonel Jeff Cooper, editor, Combat Pistol Craft
Captain J. Leatherwood, editor, Sniping/Counter-Sniping
Captain John Donovan, editor, Explosives/Demolition
Lt. Colonel Robert K. Brown, publisher-editor.

Brown, Donovan, and McColl are identified as being members of Special Forces Reserve Units, and Brown and Donovan are specifically identified as being members of the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne). One other individual, Ludwig Nicholas Ladas II, co-editor, Special Weapons and Tactics, is identified simply as a "Special Forces medic." Note that these U.S. Special Forces connections are just those which can be clearly documented from various issues of the magazine itself; for all we know, *all* of the staff are in the U.S. Army's Special Forces.

The Spring 1976 issue of *SOF* contains a whole article on the 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne), primarily devoted to describing its training operations. In this article we learn that the 12th Special Forces Group is really a network of units, about twenty-five in all, stretching from Seattle to Los Angeles, to Little Rock to Detroit, to Arlington Heights, Illinois — a Chicago suburb. In contrast to regular reserve units, 75% of its members have prior combat experience. They receive training in a variety of environments: arctic, desert, and jungle. In the words of one of its Master Sergeants: "You never know from one moment to the next, where you're going to be used in the world."¹

The *New York Times* of March 27, 1977 reported on a group of U.S. military units called "Readiness Command," which is designed to cover areas in the world not assigned to other units, in addition to serving as quick reinforcements in any crisis area when needed. *Its own zone of operations includes Southern Africa*, and the "Readiness Command" contains both active and reserve units, including Special Forces. It seems quite possible, though we do not have any direct evidence of this, that the 12th Special Forces Group is part of this command.

In other words, Robert K. Brown and *SOF* are well connected to the U.S. military, and to the Special Forces in particular. On the other hand, the "T-shirt incident," and particularly the T-shirt ad in *SOF*, shows that the reverse is independently true. All of them, the 12th Special Forces, *SOF* and Robert Brown, along with the Rhodesian Information Office and Major Lamprecht, are involved in mercenary recruitment for Rhodesia, and they are all interconnected with one another.

One can't be sure of what the slippery tongues of the State Department would

say about all this. They would probably blame Brown or some other Army officer while arranging for a new way to recruit mercenaries for Rhodesia. But even if they were to do this, they would have a hard time apologizing for the *other* connections of *SOF* and the 12th Special Forces, connections which radiate in another, somewhat hazier, yet definitely more sinister direction.

In an editorial introduction to an article by a Robert Roman in *SOF*, the following was included:

As *SOF* publisher Brown can testify — he was simultaneously a free-lance writer, University of Colorado student, and participant in the Cuban revolution — it is possible to combine college with reporting and Caribbean cloak and dirking. But it's not advisable. It can become a *permanent affliction*. See what happened to Brown and Roman.² (emphasis added)

Lt. Col. Brown himself wrote an article on how the CIA and *Life* magazine cooperated in an operation to invade Cuba and kidnap two Russian colonels, who would then be persuaded to testify that the Cubans still had Russian missiles (this was



U.S. Army CAPTAIN John L. Donovan, a Soldier of Fortune editor, (lower left) in the field with Smith troops.

after the Cuban missile crisis and the Bay of Pigs). The admitted goal of the CIA operation: politically destroy President John F. Kennedy.³ In that same issue Lt. Col. Brown refers to "our contacts in the Cuban exile community," who aided him in his research for the article. It is clear that Brown himself has been extensively involved in working for the CIA.

Connections to the Cuban exile/counter-insurgency network keep popping up in *SOF*. Rocky Kemp, Aviation Editor for *SOF*, is identified as having "... trained pilots for ... Cuban exile organization."⁴

Lt. Col. McColl, Dr. John Peters (Paramedic Operations editor), and George Speakman (Parachuting editor) organized a group known as Paramedic Rescue Service (PMRS). The ostensible purpose was to run airborne paramedic operations in disaster areas. One of their companions in an operation over hurricane-struck Honduras in 1974 was one "... Armando Bocet, Cuban exile, who had jumped in the Bay of Pigs invasion and served as a mercenary in the Belgian Congo" Helping in the ground support for the operation was one "... Gerald Hemming, ex-free-lance advisor to Castro, then to both Cuban and Haitian exiles." The article goes on to thank the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) for its assistance to PMRS. AID is now admitted to have been a CIA cover for providing counter-insurgency support to overseas dictators (e.g., Vietnam, Latin America, and the Philippines) in order to suppress popular movements there.⁵

The Cuban exile/counter-insurgency network is well known as a veritable rat's-nest of disgruntled former Cuban casino operators, pimps, and mafiosa, as well as being one of the main sources of manpower for the Central Intelligence Agency's various international operations.

Aside from proving that Robert K. Brown and his friends at *SOF* are well connected to groups and individuals which in turn are well connected to the CIA, this presentation raises the following questions: What, after all, is Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown's "permanent affliction"? What kind of "cloak and dirking" is Brown into now? They said it, not us. Clues to the answers to these questions are available in what follows here.

SOF, in its Summer 1976 issue, published an article by a certain George Bacon, entitled "The Challenge of Deep Sea Diving." The article was as innocuous as its title, but "George Bacon" was neither profiled nor identified further. In the same issue, in the "Bulletin Board" section of the magazine, the editors nervously report: "One of our authors has been reported MIA in Angola." That author was not identified — in this issue.



Center: Bacon and another Case Officer with Air America pilots.



C.I.A. operative George Bacon, who later helped found *SOF* magazine, in Laos "advising" General Vang Pao. Pao was the head of the C.I.A.'s mercenary army in Laos.

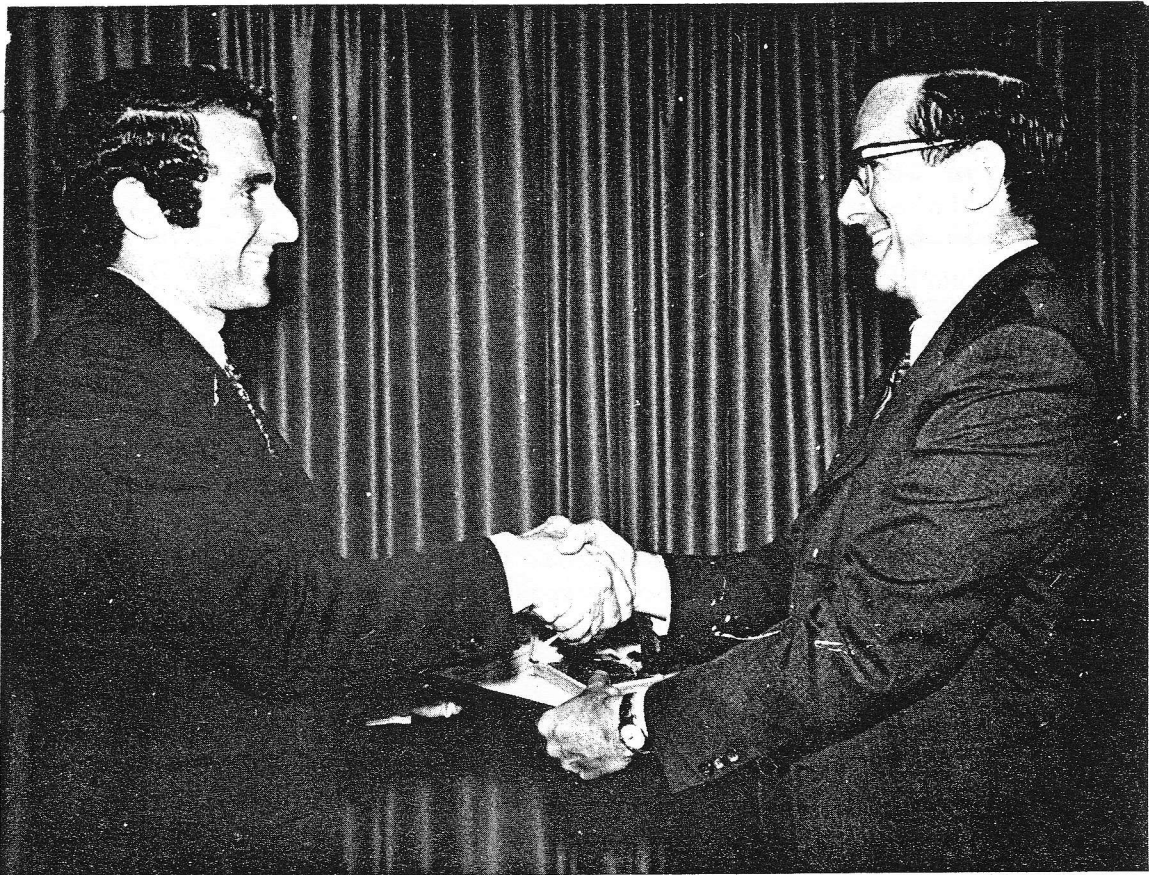
That author was none other than George Bacon; he was the only American mercenary killed in action in Angola. Bacon fought with Holden Roberto's FNLA; it has been documented that Roberto was in the pay of the CIA. These facts about Bacon became known in the Fall 1976 issue of *SOF*, in which the editors, upon learning that George Bacon could no longer be shuffled off as merely some fellow who writes about deep-sea diving, decided to spill his identity in a long, lead article entitled: "Exclusive! George W. Bacon III: The Only American KIA in Angola."

In this article, written by Brown and an associate editor for *SOF*, Robert Mimer, George Bacon comes off as some sort of latter-day St. Michael: "... *summa cum laude* college graduate, naturalist, environmentalist, deep-sea diver and freedom fighter, gave his life so that others might live unoppressed." And on and on: "compassion," "integrity, scruples, commitment . . . sense of humor," "a hero."

Also: "Sadly, he is more famous now that he is dead than when he was alive." Thank you for this insight, Robert Brown; isn't it sad that the editors of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine declined to tell their readers exactly who George Bacon was when he was alive, at a time when he was only writing adventure stories for a magazine designed to lure discontented, unemployed westerners into mercenary service for the racist Smith regime? Perhaps they felt that the potential merc recruits would have second thoughts if they found out all about George Bacon; perhaps they were embarrassed, for various reasons, about the fact George Bacon was a "... CIA case officer in Laos; CIA Intelligence Star recipient . . . "6

When *SOF* found out that George Bacon had not anonymously escaped from Angola, but rather had been killed in action, they faced the likelihood that Bacon's career would be exposed in an unfavorable light. They then decided to take the initiative and come clean about Bacon's CIA connections, along with the tear-jerking embellishments to make it all look good.

Citation



Mr. George W. Bacon III Is Hereby Awarded THE INTELLIGENCE STAR

in recognition of his outstanding services performed under conditions of grave personal risk. While serving as an advisor to a large indigenous force in Southeast Asia, the key strategic military base to which he was assigned was subjected to a massive enemy attack. During the four-month siege, Mr. Bacon and his associates handled a myriad of organizational, logistical and tactical problems experienced by the friendly forces. Despite heavy enemy bombardment, Mr. Bacon volunteered to remain on duty at the base providing moral and physical support, thus inspiring the indigenous defenders to withstand the attack. Mr. Bacon's courageous and professional performance was in keeping with the highest tradition of the Agency, reflecting great credit on him and the Federal service.

This article lets it all hang out. We read about Bacon's career with the U.S. Special Forces, including training with the Airborne Group, and his metamorphosis into a CIA agent, operating through the "Studies and Observation Group" (SOG). SOG, according to the *SOF* Bacon article itself, was "... the cover name used by the CIA for their operations into North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia which were carried out by Special Forces and indigenous personnel."

The Bacon article is important not only because it gives us more information about the sort of people connected to *SOF*, but also because it gives us an insight into the kind of thinking and planning that goes on behind the facade of "The Journal of Professional Adventurers." We learn from the article that George Bacon had a close relationship with Robert K. Brown, dating back at least to the latter half of 1975 (Bacon's diving article didn't appear until the Summer 1976 issue), and that *Bacon and Brown had traded suggestions on how best to organize overseas counter-insurgency campaigns.*

Brown suggested to Bacon that the "Volunteers and Veterans for Vietnam" (a group organized by a certain Bart Bonner to help support the Saigon Government in its death throes) be re-organized as the "Volunteers and Veterans for Freedom," "... a clearing house providing information on opportunities to fight communism" Bacon, pushing the Angolan mercenary effort, suggested to Brown that "... your magazine could be an excellent way to spread the good word about this opportunity." Elsewhere in the article, one of the sources is described as "Another Case Officer and friend of George's who cannot be identified because of close ties to the intelligence community"

The Bacon article *implies* that George Bacon was not in the employ of the CIA at the time he was recruiting and fighting in Angola. But the *Chicago Sun Times* of April 17, 1977, in an expose of mercenary recruiting by the CIA for Angola and Zaire, refers to leaked CIA documents which indicate that George Bacon was indeed working for the CIA when he met his end in Angola. But we already know that just a few months before, in September, 1975, Bacon was having discussions with Robert K. Brown on how *Soldier of Fortune* magazine could be utilized as a mercenary recruiting propaganda vehicle for Angola and beyond.⁷ In other words, known CIA personnel were involved in launching *Soldier of Fortune* magazine.

The CIA front that Bacon worked for during his days in Laos, the "Studies and Observation Group" (SOG), surfaces elsewhere in the same issue of *SOF*.⁸ On page 70 is the title page of *SOF* staff member Lt. Col. Alex McColl's article on "Basic Combat Training" (McColl provides us with a cook's tour of basic training

at Fort Knox). On the lower left hand corner of that page is a boxed profile of *Major McColl*. Not only does this indicate that McColl *also* received a promotion for his exemplary service, but the profile, in recounting McColl's military career, informs us that McColl was an "... Operations Staff Officer for SOG ...". Thus Lt. Col. McColl turns up wearing many hats: a Special Forces Reservist, a CIA agent, and a *SOF* staff man recruiting mercenaries for Rhodesia.

Finally, we must mention, if only briefly, Walt Darran, Aviation co-editor with Rocky Kemp for *SOF* magazine. Walt Darran is introduced to *SOF* readers as a "... former Air America pilot ...".⁹ Air America is a well-known CIA front.



Major Alex M. S. McColl
Military Affairs

... 11 years active duty in the Army including service as CIC Special Agent, Operations Staff Officer for SOG, Tank Battalion Commander and International Liaison Officer ... 2½ years in Nam ... led only successful night counterattack ever conducted by VN Popular Force ... graduate of CG&S ... speaks French, Russian, Vietnamese and Spanish ... private pilot, sky-diver, deep water sailer ... Army Reserve assignment with Special Forces ...



Since 1956, the author, a former Marine Corps Captain and pilot, has accumulated 8,000 hours flight time and checked out in over 150 different jets, choppers and multi-engine aircraft. As a flight instructor, he has trained pilots for the Ecuadorian Airforce, Nippon Airlines and Cuban exile organizations. He has flown in Mexico, Central America, Ecuador, Columbia, the Amazon basin and Andes, Korea, Japan, Formosa, Mozambique, Rhodesia, and South Africa.

U.S. Army LT COL Alex McColl, (left) *Soldier of Fortune* editor, was a high-ranking C.I.A. officer in Laos; *SOF* Aviation Editor Rocky Kemp (right) has an international career, including service in Rhodesia and training Cuban exiles.

The reader can well appreciate why Mr. Keuch of the Justice Department, Mr. Cole of the State Department, and the rest of them were so reluctant to pursue Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown and his Special Forces friends. They might have found out, and it might have become publicized, what Robert Brown's "permanent affliction" really was, who Brown's unnamed source with "close ties to the intelligence community" was, and who ordered the U.S. 12th Special Forces to start recruiting mercenaries for Rhodesia.

We already know that the CIA must have known and approved of mercenary recruitment in Iran. From the evidence we have presented concerning mercenary recruitment in the U.S., it is clear that this recruitment campaign is a classic example of a covert CIA operation to implement deliberate Government policy. That policy is to maintain Western domination over Africa by any means.

IX. THE WAR IS ALSO AT HOME

The Western press tries to convince us that white Rhodesia is some "renegade," an accidental nation having no similarity to the rest of the Western world. Likewise the die-hard Rhodesian white settlers and their U.S. mercenary soldiers are pictured as "extremist," isolated fanatics living in a white supremacist past that other European peoples have allegedly long since matured beyond. We must ask, how is it that "renegade" Rhodesia (which has been boycotted by the U.N. and has not received formal diplomatic recognition from any nation in the entire world) has gotten so much economic and military support from the NATO powers? And are the U.S. mercenaries who every day commit racist atrocities in Zimbabwe so very different from the white police who murder Black children in every ghetto in the U.S.?

ZANU points out that Rhodesia is a very specific type of oppressor nation — a white settler nation. ZANU has also pointed out that Rhodesia is neither the first nor last such nation. The United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Rhodesia, Algeria and Israel all are or were white settler colonies and nations. Settler colonies characteristically import an entire population of Europeans, who are given privileged positions in the new society in order to create a loyal mass base for capitalism. Ironically, these Europeans themselves were often among the most exploited in the Old World (for example, the English prisoners sent to Australia and North America or the Jews fleeing from fascism to conquer Arab lands in Palestine). The major division among settler nations is between those where a settler minority perches atop the original Third World population and the "successful" settler nations where the original natives were largely wiped out.

Now that settler Rhodesia is clearly doomed, with African guerrilla offensive mounting and with white families slipping out of the country every day on the "chicken run" flights to Johannesburg, the U.S. is eager to disavow the settlers. But there are very real similarities between the U.S. and Rhodesia, both originally settler colonies of the British Empire. As the white Rhodesian "pioneered" by massacring Zimbabweans and seizing their land, so white settler America "pioneered" by genocide and land piracy against the Indian Nations. Just as the unusual prosperity of white Rhodesia is based on the oppression of an African population of laborers and servants, so the privileged living standard of a large section of white America is partially based on the special oppression of Black and other Third World workers right here. Just as housing, education, etc. is sharply segregated in Rhodesia, it is sharply segregated in the U.S. — with white supremacy a dominant social fact in both societies.

We say with millions of others around the world that imperialism is one system,

one enemy. To understand U.S. imperialism we have to see that the U.S. is *not* a legitimate nation (any more than Rhodesia is), but an empire, an oppressor nation imprisoning *within and without* its formal borders oppressed Third World nations. Today the Native American, Puerto Rican, Black and Chicano/Mexicano peoples are beginning national liberation struggles, which identify with and have common cause with the liberation struggles of Vietnam, Zimbabwe and other oppressed nations. The domestic impact of the new surge in African liberation is particularly great, since it hits the U.S. at a point when Black people are rising to win their historic right of self-determination as an oppressed nation.

It is important to understand all this to put the mercenary phenomenon in its proper perspective. To fight U.S. military intervention against African liberation is not an act of charity by us, for truly we and the Zimbabwean people have a common enemy. This is not just rhetoric, but a fact. We have shown how the 12th Special Forces, a unit of the U.S. Army, is a front for the CIA in assisting the Rhodesian military in fighting African liberation. We must also point out that they are doing the same thing right here in the U.S.!

Captain John L. Donovan, 12th Special Forces Group's Engineering Staff Officer, is a frequent visitor to Rhodesia and is also a Lieutenant in the "Special Tactics Unit" of the McLean County, Illinois, Sheriff's Department. He was formerly the "SWAT" team Commander for Sangamon County, Illinois. Nicholas Ladas and Robert D. Allman are the "SWAT Editors" of the mercenary journal *Soldier of Fortune*. At the same time, Ladas is executive director of the Biscayne Park, Florida, police — and both are "explosives instructors" and "SWAT" team trainers for the State of Florida.

It is interesting that this latest innovation in U.S. police departments — "Special Weapons and Tactics" units — has been extensively glorified and promoted. "SWAT" T-shirts, toys and posters are sold by the many thousands. A network TV serial ("S.W.A.T.") was followed by tens of millions of viewers (it was the "hit" TV show of the 1975 season). Yet "SWAT" teams are just the U.S. equivalent of Rhodesia's British South African Police — a para-military elite force armed to the teeth to suppress Third World uprisings.

Nicholas Ladas and Robert Allman admit that they train U.S. police in the *offensive* use of explosives against "insurgents." They rhapsodize that, "Couple the various facets of this explosives (and demolition) training with another of our blocks of instruction, the suppression of urban guerrilla warfare and organized terrorism, and, to quote an oft repeated phrase, 'all hell breaks loose!'" In case anyone didn't get the point, these high-class thugs are training police to use explosives in the middle of ghettos and barrios. Ladas is a "respectable" specialist, with



connections to Rhodesian mercenary recruiting, the U.S. Army, police departments and such armaments corporations as Colt and Smith & Wesson.

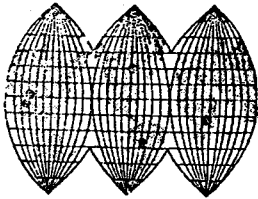
"SWAT" teams have always been nakedly racist and reactionary. Officer Davie Hudson of the Los Angeles Police Department "SWAT" team told a reporter: *"... as for the ... potential to overkill militant political types, well the reason SWAT was established was because of those very types..."* That U.S. imperialism would set up such special repressive units was only to be expected, as was the powerful campaign to legitimize and glorify these killers. Why has this campaign been so successful? Part of the white society in the U.S. (including even some working class people) support U.S. imperialism's rule over Third World peoples, whether in Boston or Rhodesia. In fact, many U.S. white racists strongly identify with the embattled Rhodesian white settlers, and publicly compare Rhodesia's independence as a "white nation" to the 1776 independence of the white North American colonies from Great Britain. It is the same white supremacist current in U.S. society, created and protected by the U.S. Government and corporations, which furnishes these willing hands to combat the rising world tide of liberation.

While the U.S. Government has had to move covertly to strengthen white Rhodesia, at home it can act more openly. Thus, the racist "SWAT" teams were simply "bringing home" the technical lessons of Vietnam. Commander Louis Guifrida at Camp San Luis Obispo has admitted: "*If you know about LRRP (the Army's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols in Vietnam—ed.), then you know what SWAT is, adapted, of course, to domestic needs in an urban setting.*" Hundreds of local police departments have sent their "SWAT" team leaders to be trained at the Civil Disturbance Orientation Course (SEADOC) at Ft. McClelland, Alabama, which is just one of several major training centers.

We have seen that the network that sends mercenary reinforcements to Rhodesia is directly tied to the U.S. Government and run by the CIA. We have also seen that it is precisely these forces — even some of the same men — who are helping to militarize local police forces throughout the country to put down Black and other Third World "insurgents." It is imperative for all who support the long-overdue liberation of Southern Africa to help expose and *halt* this flow of mercenary reinforcements. This is one front in the African struggle that is our direct responsibility here to take care of. And for us it is particularly important because imperialism is doing nothing in Africa that it is not willing to do at home as well — already the guns are trained on us, too.

FOOTNOTES

- | | |
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| <p>I. 1. <i>New York Times</i>, July 9, 1976.</p> <p>II. 1. <i>New York Times</i>, July 24, 1976.
2. <i>New York Times</i>, May 15, 1976.
3. <i>Africa Report</i>, November-December 1975, p. 6.</p> <p>III. 1. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1977, p. 13.
2. <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 61.
3. <i>Baltimore Sun</i>, May 20, 1976.
4. "Mercenaries Grumble at Life in Rhodesia," May 18, 1976 <i>The Times</i> (London)
5. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 31.
6. <i>New York Times</i>, July 25, 1976.</p> <p>IV. 1. <i>New York Times</i>, January 1, 1976.</p> <p>V. 1. <i>New York Times</i>, June 22, 1975.
2. <i>Africa Report</i>, November-December 1975, p. 13.
3. <i>Africa Today</i>, July-September 1976, p. 68.</p> | <p>VI. 1. <i>New York Times</i>, June 22, 1975.
2. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 3.
3. <i>Guns</i>, December, 1975, p. 70.</p> <p>VIII. 1. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 34.
2. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Summer 1976, p. 17.
3. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 12.
4. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Summer 1976, p. 36.
5. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 63.
6. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Fall 1976, p. 14.
7. <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 76.
8. <i>Ibid.</i>, p. 70.
9. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 2.</p> <p>VII. 1. <i>Africa Report</i>, November-December 1975, p. 5.
2. <i>New York Times</i>, June 22, 1975.
3. Reprinted in <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1977, p. 9.
4. <i>New York Times</i>, June 22, 1975.
5. <i>Africa Report</i>, November-December 1975, p. 3.
6. <i>Soldier of Fortune</i>, Spring 1976, p. 53.
7. <i>New York Times</i>, June 22, 1975.</p> |
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Appendix A.

JESUIT PROJECT FOR THIRD WORLD AWARENESS
5430 SOUTH UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60615, U S A

September 12, 1976

At approximately 1:15 p.m. on August 11, 1976, we were sitting in a park near 18th and Wolcott St. in Chicago, Ill. As we were talking, we noticed a man walking past wearing a mercenary recruiting T-shirt. This shirt was very striking: under a drawing in black of a "Huey" helicopter discharging combat troops was the word "Rhodesia," printed large in bright red across the front of the shirt. Under "Rhodesia" were the words: "is ready when you are." Clearly, this alludes to Americans volunteering to fight for the white regime in Salisbury.

We stopped this man and started asking him about this shirt and his views on Rhodesia. He stated at least five times that the U.S. government was in no way involved in this activity. After saying that the government had failed to let the Armed Forces "wipe out communism" in Cuba, Vietnam, etc., he asked us whether we would be interested in going to Rhodesia. We said no, but inquired how difficult it was to become a mercenary for Rhodesia. We also asked if he knew how to arrange this. His reply to both questions was obviously encouraging further interest but evasive. He kept saying, "If a man wants to, he can do anything." When finally asked very directly if this was "easy," he answered "yes."

We asked him several times where Chicagoans could get one of those mercenary T-shirts. He answered, "Down at 12th Special Forces." Perceiving that we were skeptical, he reassured us that he was a member of the U.S. 12th Special Forces and showed us what appeared to be a legitimate armed forces identification card. We have since learned that the 12th Special Forces is a "Green Beret" reserve unit, based in Arlington Heights, Illinois. We feel that the U.S. Congress should investigate what appears to be illegal mercenary recruiting activity conducted by a U.S. military unit.

Appendix B.

Front Back

MEMORANDUM OF CALL

TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____
☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT
MESSAGE

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

STANDARD FORM 63
REVISED AUGUST 1967
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
Pro: 1960-048-16-90341-1 393-399 63-103

394-8887



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